

Application No.: 10/713,845
Filing Date.: November 14, 2003

REMARKS

Status of Amendments

Prior to the present amendment, Claims 23-39, 41-43 and 45-65 were pending. Claims 41-43, 45 and 61-62 are canceled herewith. Allowable Claims 46 and 47 are amended.

After final rejection, Applicants submitted a Response to Final Office Action, including an amendment to rewrite allowable Claim 46 in independent form. An Advisory Action was received with no indication whether the amendment was entered and no indication of which claims are allowed, rejected and objected to. After confirming with the Examiner over the telephone that the amendment was not entered, Applicants again present the amendment, except that in Claims 46 and 47 antecedent basis and follow-on recitations of "conductive metal plug" are amended to match.

As the amendment merely cancels rejected claims and rewrites an allowable claim in independent form, and provides antecedent basis for existing claim terms, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments.

Allowed/Allowable Claims

Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 23-39, 48-60, and 63-65 are allowed and that Claims 46-47 are allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 46 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of former base Claim 45. Additionally, the term "conductive plug" and "conductive contact" has been converted to "conductive metal plug" in all instances in Claims 46 and 47 to provide antecedent basis for the term in allowable Claim 46. Claim 47, which depends from and includes all of the limitations of Claim 46, is also now in condition for allowance.

In view of the cancellation of rejected claims, Applicants submit that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

Application No.: 10/713,845
Filing Date.: November 14, 2003

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 41-43, 45, and 61-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Radens et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,251,710. As the rejected claims are canceled herewith, Applicants submit that the rejections are moot.

However, Applicants note for the record that respectfully disagree that Claims 41-43, 45, and 61-62 are anticipated by Radens et al. Applicants submit that the interpretation of “line” in the rejected claims as encompassing the “via” of Radens et al. is contrary to the understanding of the skilled artisan, and beyond the authority of the Office to employ the “broadest reasonable interpretation.” Accordingly, Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of a similar scope to the rejected claims in continuing applications.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicant wishes to draw the Examiner's attention to the following co-pending applications of the present application's assignee.

Serial Number	Title	Filed
11/530,150	MULTI-LAYER INTERCONNECT WITH ISOLATION LAYER	September 8, 2006
11/560,504	MULTI-LAYER INTERCONNECT WITH ISOLATION LAYER	November 16, 2006

Application No.: 10/713,845
Filing Date.: November 14, 2003

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If, however, so issue remains that the Examiner feels can be addressed by Examiner Amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 9, 2007

By: Adeel S. Akhtar
Adeel S. Akhtar
Registration No. 41,394
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

AMEND

4369072
100407